Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office of the Governor

Whereas, Food allergy reactions cause 30,000 visits to the emergency room and 150 deaths nationally each year because individuals unknowingly eat a food containing an ingredient to which they were allergic; and,

Whereas, Researchers estimate that approximately 12 million Americans have food allergies with symptoms which can include hives, vomiting, diarrhea, respiratory distress, and swelling of the throat, with children being the largest group affected by food allergies; and,

Whereas, Eight foods cause 90 percent of all food allergy reactions – shellfish, fish, milk, eggs, tree nuts, peanuts, soy, and wheat; and,

Whereas, Anaphylaxis is a sudden, severe allergic reaction involving major organs in the body simultaneously, which can cause death in a matter of minutes to severely allergic individuals; and,

Whereas, There is no cure for potentially fatal food allergies, and strict avoidance of the offending food is the only way to prevent a reaction:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim May 11–17, 2008, as

FOOD ALLERGY AWARENESS WEEK

in South Dakota.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Eighteenth Day of April in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Eight.

M. Michael Rounds

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State